THE HUMBLE

REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

The GENERALL ASSEMBLY

Unto His Honourable and high Court of Par-

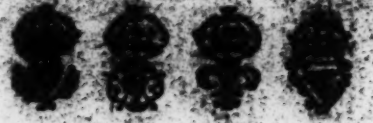
THE

TOGETHER WITH

STATE of

PARLIAMENT

To the said REMONSTRANCE.



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Edinburgh 12 February. 1647.

THe Commiſsioners of the Generall Aſſem
bly Ordaines the Remonſtrance preſented
the Honourable Eſtates of Parliament, Toge
ther with the Parliaments Anſwer thereunto, T
be forthwith Printed.

A. Ker.

The Humble Remonstrance of the Commission of the Generall Assembly;

Vnto the Honourable and high Court of Parliament.

Right Honourable,

IT is unto us the servants of Jesus Christ, and your servants for his sake, no small consolation; That whilest this Land lies afflicted, and almost fainting under a burden of many evils, you are assembled for her help; Promising unto our selves, that as in your own hearts ye do bewaile its misery before God, So you will gladly entertaine the representation thereof from all its lovers; and from the sense of your interest and trust, with spirits as large as your places, endeavour to repaire our ruines and build up our breaches; Therefore, as many Synods and Presbyteries do now make their humble addresse unto your Lordships, in their severall supplications, concerning the interests of Religion and of the

Kingdome, So are we bold to poure forth our pre-
ſent thoughts and deſires into your boſome, hoping
that as they flow from no other fountain then the
diſcharge of our conſciences and a purpoſe to doe
good, So your Lordſhips will allow them that ac-
ceptation that beſeems the juſtice and wiſdome of
ſo High and Honourable a Court, and improve the
ſame as farre as you ſee reaſon, for the honour of
God, and ſafety both of Church and State. If
we had forgotten the ſad effects of the Lords former
indignation; or were not ſenſible of the preſent
tokens of his wrath, we were more then ſtupide;
There was a time wherein the Lord made us flee be-
fore the Enemy, and made us drunk with the wine
of aſtoniſhment, not finding either hearts to reſolve
or hands to execute and put in practice: Neither was
the Peſtilence leſſe violent in our cities then the
ſword in the fields, Many thouſands have fallen in
our land by the arrows of the Almighty and fury of
the moſt high, and yet his wrath is not turned away
but his hand ſtretched out ſtill: The flame of his in-
dignation doth again burn hotly in ſome of our ci-
ties, and a conſiderable part of our Country groanes
& languiſhes without help, under all the cruelty of a
barbarous Enemy, who makes no other uſe of your
offer of pardon, then to deſpiſe your power, and to
waxe more inſolent in acting of their miſchievous
deſignes, which reach not only unto our Lives and
Liberties, but unto our Religion and Souls them-
ſelves; how ſore is the Lord diſpleaſed when he
ſuffers Antichriſt to enter in our borders, and his
emiſſaries to lead our brethren captive into Babylon

and

and set up the Masse amongst them: and what can we take this for, but a sad prognostication of ensuing darkneſse to those who have not walked worthy of the light, and that the Lord threatens to depart from his Temple: and is it not an eminent token of his anger, that many who have made themselves drunk with the bloud, and rich with the spoyles of thousands of our dear Brethren, after that they were destinate unto death by your selves, have yet escaped the hand of justice, and are restored unto their Lives and Fortunes, unto the strengthening of the Malignant party, and discouraging the hearts and weakening the hands of all the well-affected in the land? It is bitter as death to live with these that have slain the Lords people, and to hear them boast of their cruelty, and rejoyce in their iniquity, every day insulting over the Cause of God, and despising and studying to tread under-foot all the lovers of the same. Neither can we look upon the insolencies and oppression of many in our Armies, under which not a few in our Land groans; But as upon the rod of the Lords furie, turning the meanes of our health and preservation unto a cup of vineger and gall that sets the teeth on edge: Those calamities, and whatsomever miseries besides do afflict us, can issue from no other fountain then from that deluge of prophanitie that hath covered the face of the Land, which accreses unto a great height of guiltineſse, because we have sinned in the day of the Gospel, and despised the Oath of God, neither regarding our Covenant, nor the operation of his hands, in which he hath made himself glorious in

the midst of us, in many most eminent works both of Mercy and of Justice.

We acknowledge that the work of Reformation hath not beene without plentie of most gracious and comfortable fruits in many soules throughout the Land, who are for a testimony unto the trueth, and for a name of joy and praise unto the most High; Yet we cannot but bemone the power of ungodlines that prevailes and breaks forth in many grosse sins, unto the violation of our Covenant, the reproach of our Cause, and the great dishonour of the holy One of Israel our Saviour, whose mercies towards us calls upon us to be holy in all manner of conversation, and to bee fruitfull in every good work, that we may adorne the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, and not make his enemies to blaspheme. Therefore knowing all other cures to be vain without the studie of Reformation, We doe from the unfained zeal of your prosperitie and peace; in the bowels of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whose blood we have beene redeemed, in much tender and humble affection, with tears, exhort you by all your Oaths and Obligations unto God, by all his mercies and deliverances towards you, by all your zeal of his Honour and love to Religion and Countrey, that you will in all your conversation, study Sobrietie, Righteousnesse and Holinesse, and so to walk in the Gospel, that it may be known that the Son of God raigns in your hearts, when you not only hold forth his vertues in your selves; but discountenance every profane person, and cherish and embrace all those that bear the Image of God;

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The example of your good converſation cannot but be of great force to all the Land, and nothing will contribute more for repreſſing of ſin or eſtabliſhing of holineſſe, then the precedencie of great ones, Ordering all things that concerns themſelves and their followers and domeſticks according to the Covenant, as is the frame of mans ſpirits and tennor of their converſation in private, ſuch is their deportment and carriage in publike actions. We do well know that nothing will be ſo effectuall for enabling your Honours in the integritie of your ſpirits, with much affection and love one towards another without emulation or ſelf-ſeeking, faithfullie and zealouſlie to act publike counſels and reſolutions, then for each of you to walk with God, who is the Father of light, and the Author of every good gift and perfect donation. But it is cheifly as you are cloathed with Authoritie and aſſembled in Parliament, that we do now make addreſſe unto your Honours, beſeeching you by him who ſtands in the aſſemblie of gods, That as your Progenitors and you have made many pious and laudable Acts for puniſhing of vice, and advancing of vertue, So ye will ſee carefully to the execution of the ſame; And becauſe vice is become common and ſtrong, that you will lay it ſeriouſlie to heart, and beſtirre your ſelves in more then an ordinarie way, in thinking upon, and executing all the beſt expedients for ſtopping the ſluces of iniquitie and impiety, and advancing Righteouſneſſe and Religion; We know no ſervice better beſeeming your place, and more worthy of your paines, that will be more acceptable

unto

unto God, or more profitable for the Commonwealth. Next unto Reformation and the Feare of Pietie and Godlinesse among our selves; We conceive it most necessary for our good, to hold fast the Union with our Brethren of *England*; As the attaining and establishing of it was long studied by the lovers of Truth and Peace, as that Iubilie that was like to contribute most for the lasting happinesse of both Kingdoms, in regard of all their interests; So hath the dissolving of this beene, and is the great designe of all the Malignant wits both here and abroad; Conceiving it the surest way to raise their hopes and ruine our happinesse, by dividing us asunder and dashing us one against another; which wee are sure that you abhorre, and will study to avoid, no lesse in your actions then we do in our desires: And that as hitherto, you have with much wisdome and faithfulnesse, carefully shunned every thing that might produce suspitions or foster jealousies, and beene deficient in nothing that might strengthen the confidence of the English Nation in the perswasion of your affection and integritie to them-wards; So you will still from the same wisdome and faithfulnesse, hold fast the League and Covenant betwixt the Kingdomes, as that which is most conduceable for the safetie and securitie of both; And that you will by all faire and peaceable meanes travell with the Parliament of *England*, for promoving of the work of Uniformitie, by establishing of the government of the Kirk, and all the ordinances of the Son of God in *England* in their puritie and integritie, that all the clouds of error

which

which are there, may be scattered, and the beauty of the trueth shine brightly in both Lands. And conceiving it to conduce much for that work, and for the accomplishing our happinesse, that His Majesty should joyn therein; Therefore as we pour forth our prayers unto God for him on that behalfe, So we hope that your Honours will not be deficient in continuing to deale with him to subscribe the League and Covenant, that he and his Subjects being of one minde, he may be happy in his Government, and they in their obedience. And though the Peace with the Rebels in the fruits and effects thereof, hath neither answered your expectations, nor put an end to the Kingdoms miseriers, yet we shall only desire, that all such as have been involved in the Rebellion may be keeped from places of publike trust, whether Civill or Military; And that you will take such course with them, in moderating their power, and regulating their carriage, as that it may be known, that you put a difference betwixt those that have served God and their Countrey, and those that have opposed him in the publike Cause; And that your peace may be peace indeed, and not the foundation of a more lasting Warre: If it were not tedious, we could lay it before your Honours what a height of arrogancy, and disdain of authority both Civil and Ecclesiastick, appears in the carriage and expressions of most of these men, & that not in corners abroad, but publikely in the chief Cities of the Kingdome, and under your own eyes; And it is yet more grievous, that such should be familiarly conversed with and countenanced by these who pro-

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feſſe themſelves to be for the Lord and his Cauſe,
which evil is ſo increaſed, that excommunicate per-
ſons themſelves are not avoided.

It wounds us deeply to behold the ſufferings, and
hear the cryes and complaints of our Brethren in the
Province of *Argyle*, and the places thereabouts, who
have their bloud ſhed, as water ſpilt upon the
ground, their eſtates ruined, their houſes burnt with
fire, and the remnant that is left expoſed unto the
ſhares of Antichriſt, and all the miſeries of naked-
neſſe and famine: We need not put your Lordſhip
in minde what hath been their carriage & conſtancy
in the publike Work, nor what is your obligation
unto them by vertue of your Covenant, Nor how
dangerous the ſeating of ſuch an Enemy there may
be, both unto our Religion and our Countrey, But
we beſeech you by the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and by
the love of the Spirit, that ye will apply your ſelves
ſeriouſly, and beſtirre your ſelves diligently for the
help and relief of that poore people, whoſe condi-
ons pleads for it at your hands, both as an Act of
Juſtice and an Act of Mercy. We do alſo lay be-
fore you the eminent dangers, and low condition of
our Brethren in *Ireland*, who are neer to be ſwallow-
ed up of their adverſaries: Perſwading our ſelves
that you will extend your utmoſt endeavours with
the Parliament of *England*, for their tymous aſ-
ſtance and relief. And although we do acknow-
ledge, not onely the courage, but alſo the modera-
on and piety of many worthies in our Armies, who
not only walk as good Souldiers, but as Souldiers
of Jeſus Chriſt, unto their own commendation &

our hearts joy, whose deservings we make no question will be both valued and rewarded by you according to their worth; yet we cannot but regrate, that many in our Armies walke loosly and disorderly, ryotously spending what they violently spoile, and making the lives of the Commons bitter unto them by their insolencies and oppressions, which are carried with so high an hand, that without the interposition of your authority, help cannot be found: And therefore we are confident that your care shall reach unto this also, that the poore be no more oppressed, nor the Gospel, and our profession reproached by the debordings of such: And we also trust that your Lordships will so dispose of common burdens, that friends have no cause to complaine of unequall measure amongst themselves, much lesse that Enemies are in a better condition then they, and that they are overcharged when the other not only retain their spoils but live in superfluities. And because the preservation of the Judicatories of the Kirk in their integrity and strength is of a great consequence, unto the suppressing of iniquity and ungodlinesse, and advancing righteousnesse and piety, We desire that your Lordships will carefully see unto the keeping of their authority inviolable, against all the insolencies of unreasonable men: Our Religion and Liberty are blessings of excellent & incomparable worth, in establishing of which unto us, the Lord hath marched in as glorious and stately way of providence over all the mountains of opposition, as any eye hath seen for many hundred of yeers past: And it does not escape your knowledge what hath been the designes

and endeavours of adversaries from the beginn
against the same; And though many of them be cu
short of their power, that they can no more openl
oppose, yet have they not desisted from their poli
cy secretly to undermine; And there is no less
danger in the misteries of iniquity then acts of hosti
lity. When we consider how many of those wh
were once open Enemies are brought unto our bo
some as seeming friends, we cannot but professe ou
fears, and as the watchman of the house of Isra
forwarne you of the same; Earnestly beseechin
you, that you will minde the samething, and as or
man from the unfained zeale of the honour of Go
and with much love and affection one toward
another, study the preservation of those precio
blessings, That not only this, but the succeedin
generations may be happy in the enjoying of th
same.

A. Ker.

Edinburgh

The Parliaments Answer.

Edinburgh, 11. *February*. 1647.

THe Eſtates of Parliament now conveened in this ſixth Seſſion of the firſt triennall Parliament, Having ſeriouſlie conſidered the Remonſtrance of the Commiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie preſented to them, Do with all thankfull acknowledgement receive the pious and ſeaſonable admonitions and exhortations therein contained, and return to their particular deſires this following anſwer.

1. That they do hereby Ordain all Acts already paſſed for puniſhing of vice and advancing of vertue, to ſtand in force, and be put to due execution, Recommending the ſame to all the Miniſters of juſtice whom it concerns. And that they are yet ready to enact any further new Laws and Ordinances neceſſary for that purpoſe, having appointed a Committee for Acts and Overtures to meet with M. *James Robertoun* the Juſtice Depute at all convenient occaſions, for receiving and conſidering the deſires and Overtures of the ſaid Commiſſioners, and to prepare a report of their opinions therein to the Parliament with all diligence.

2. That they have beene ever carefull to preſerve that Band of Union between the Kingdomes, and to proſecute the work of Uniformity according to the Covenant, ſtill reſolving zealouſly to ſtudy the ſame. That they have yet again made their humble addreſſes to His Majeſtie for ſigning the Covenant,

and

and satisfiing the desires of his Parliaments of both Kingdomes; All which their instructions to their Commissioners at *London* and *Newcastle*, and their Letters to the Parliament of *England* do sufficiently expresse: And what further is to be done in relation to these particulars, shall bee communicate to the Commission from time to time, that they may joyntly concur according to their place and vocation for prosecuting thereof.

3. Touching the particulars concerning these persons brought off the rebellion, by the Generall Major thereunto warranted; That the publike faith so given unto them is not to be violated: But for the better securing the peace & quiet of the Kingdoms, These Persons brought off the rebellion are hereby appointed to give such further assurance of their good and regular behaviour in time coming, and for keeping the Peace as is conforme to the former Lawes and Practises; And in the meane time, that such of them and others accessary to the rebellion, and under censure of Church and State, whom the Committee thereunto appointed shall think fit, be commanded off Town, And that an Act & Proclamation be drawn by that Committee, and speedily expedited and prepared for the Parliament to that effect: Ordaining further, that the saids Persons brought off the rebellion, and any others guilty of the crimes mentioned in the first Classe of the Act at S. *Andrews*, shal not be admitted to sit in any publike judicatories, nor enjoy and exerce any offices or places of trust Civill or Military, during the time of these troubles, and longer during the pleasure of the Parliament

liament, without prejudice to persons who have heritable offices, to nominate and appoint, by the advice of Parliament, Committee of Estates, or Secret Counsell, fit persons, against whom there is no just exception, to be their Deputes in these offices. And it is also hereby declared, that these Persons brought off the rebellion, are not to be in a better condition then other Subjects, But that they are and shall be lyable and subject in payment of all Loans, Taxes, Monethly Maintenance, and of their proportions for Leavies of Foot and Horse, at the rate and prices set down by Acts of Parliament, or Committee of Estates, or Committees of Warre in Shires where they have interest *respective*; And of all other publike burdens, impositions, and dueties whatsomever, for all years bygone and in time coming, as fully and in the same manner as any other person is or hath been subject thereunto.

4. That all the former Lawes and Ordinances against excommunicate Persons, are hereby appointed to stand in full force and vigour, Recommending to every one whom it concerns, to put the same to due execution: And what shall bee found further necessary from the Parliament, to make that dreadfull ordinance of God, sensible to such obstinate offenders, And to have due regard and reverence from all, is to be considered by the said Committee, to whom the Overtures of the Commission to that purpose are referred, and after return of their report, The Parliament will take the same to speciall consideration.

5. That they are very sensible of the distresses of the province of *Argyle*, and have already provided some meanes for their present subsistance and relief, Resolving

And the Estates of Parliament hereby Statute and Ordaine, That the particular Ordinances, Declarations and Answers above expressed, shall have the strength and authority of Acts, Declarations, Answers, and Ordinances of Parliament conforme to the tenors and maners thereof respective.

Alex. Gibsone Cler. Regist.

FINIS.